



FICMNEW – DRAFT public meeting notes

30-September-2015, 10:30 AM eastern

Attendees: Bob Nowierski (NIFA, acting chair), Terri Hogan (NPS), Lee Van Wychen (WSSA), Tony Koop (USDA APHIS), Rosalind James (ARS), Donn Shilling (WSSA), Todd Neel (USFS), Brendan Myers, Craig Nelson, David Repass (BLM), William Carromero (USFS), Gina Ramos (BLM), Erin Alvey, Brian Smith, Mike Ilemmini (USFS)
SPECIAL GUESTS: Jon Wyss (Okanogan County Farm Bureau President), Anna Lyon (Noxious Weed Control Board Okanogan County)

Meeting Summary

This call followed the FICMNEW Federal Session. Jon Wyss gave an overview of the impact of devastating fires in Washington State including invasive plant issues associated with fire disturbance. Okanogan County is seeking assistance in identifying potential funding sources to support invasive plant control and restoration efforts.

A copy of the presentation is being distributed with these notes.

FICMNEW – Open Meeting – 30-September, 10:30 AM ET

Facilitated by Bob Nowierski (NIFA)

**Presentation: “Long term recovery after a firestorm including coordinated weed management”
by Jon Wyss, Chair for the long-term recovery efforts in Okanogan County, Washington**

Jon Wyss serves as Okanogan County Farm Bureau President, Chairman of the Coalition for Property Rights, USA Farmers Vice-President, US Apple Association North Region Director, Douglas County Shoreline Update Coalition Chair, Chairman of Brewster Boys and Girls Club, and now serves as the Chair for the long term recovery efforts in Okanogan County after Washington state's two largest wildfires in history.

This year's firestorms in the state of Washington knew no boundaries and neither should coordinated efforts as the state moves through recovery, seeding, prevention and implementing EDRR programs.

More than 750,000 acres have burned in Washington State including the Carlton Complex fire of 2014 and this year's fires in Okanogan County. Jon provided overview of fire impacts. A number of invasive species invaded post-burn landscape reducing the likelihood of native species coming into the area or successfully competing with invasive plants. Impacts were substantial. One third of county grazing area burned, which will result in loss of cattle (estimated at 40%) due to lack of forage, wintering habitat for largest mule deer population burned, great loss of wildlife habitat, air quality has been reduced due to wind erosion of denuded soil.

Carlton Complex – could only treat a portion of approved treatment areas (about 2,300 acres) and reseeded less than 2,000 acres. The county is focusing on high priority areas (high elevation riparian areas). This year, weed seed transportation between sites was substantial because of fire size (large fires at three locations), limited equipment available and shared among the three sites, and no preventative measures taken (equipment cleaning) as equipment had to move quickly.

Okanogan County will need help funding weed control and restoration. Work will be prioritized. Will be going to DC to request funding support. The estimated need is \$150,000 per year for three years.



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Q/A (All)

Discussion of potential funding and strategies for getting funding support

- Potential fund sources - County has applied for - FEMA funds but there are limitations on how it can be used; funds through state conservation district
 - Post-fire infestations threaten Canada - potential for funding through Weeds Across Borders (now called the North American Invasive Species Forum)
 - NRCS EQIP – some challenges using EQIP funds (must be used immediately; millions of dollars in fencing had to be replaced)
 - Farm Services Administration will also provide emergency funding. County already taking advantage of these funds but this is being used, primarily, to replace fencing. Must meet all Federal regulations to get this funding. To date, four of 42 applicants have completed this rigorous process. FSA is also offering micro-loans up to \$50,000.
 - Federal grazing lands post fire (BLM)
 - BIA has range program. Those BIA funds could be used on Colville Indian Reservation lands. Funding is mostly short term at present. Need to bridge long-term gap.
 - May be able to tap in to protection of sage grouse and sage grouse habitat. Sage grouse rare within burn area of Okanogan County, however, the area burned on the Reservation and Douglas County have substantial sage grouse habitat.
 - Forest Health Fund through USDA is supportive of weed control funding.
- Strategies for requesting funds
 - Look at the problem in a different way. Rather than beginning with request for funds, describe how Okanogan County supports federal efforts (e.g., EDRR) as well as state funding set aside for weed control issues.
 - Keep presentation tight and focused.
 - Include cheatgrass presence and how it perpetuates frequent fire cycles.
 - Recommend meeting with the Chair of the Appropriations Committee (Hal Rogers – House; Thad Cochran – Senate).
- Strategies for approaching invasive plant problem
 - Recommend releasing biocontrols on early weed infestations. County already does this except for leafy spurge, which is treated as an EDRR effort.

Other discussion

- Opportunity for research on invasive plant ecology post fire.

Next meeting: October 28th conflicts with ISAC meeting, so FICMNEW is likely to be held at 2:30 PM on a different day. We are trying to arrange a talk on National Seed Strategy. Meeting will likely be rescheduled for early November.

Presentation ideas welcomed, email annie_simpson@usgs.gov



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Potential Acronyms List

[note that some acronyms in this list may not appear in this document]

Term/ Acronym	Meaning
ACK55	Bioherbicide <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> strain ACK55
AM	Ante Meridian (morning)
ANSTF	Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture
APIPP	Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
ASAP	As Soon As Possible
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior
CO	Colorado
CONABIO	National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (in Spanish)
CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area
D7	bioherbicide <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> strain D7
DC	District of Columbia
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of Interior
DOS	Department of State
DOT	Department of Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAB	Emerald Ash Borer
EDDMapS	Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System
EDRR	Early Detection Rapid assessment and Response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ET	Eastern Time
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FEIS	Fire Effects Information System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation
FICMNEW	Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious Exotic Weeds
FSA	Farm Services Administration
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior
GrSG	Greater Sage Grouse
ICR	Internal Control Review
IPC	Invasive Plant Control, Inc.
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISAC	Invasive Species Advisory Committee (FACA Committee of NISC)
ITAP	Federal Interagency Committee on Invasive Terrestrial Animals and Pathogens
LLC	Limited Liability Company

Term/ Acronym	Meaning
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
NAISF	North American Invasive Species Forum; also "NAIS Forum" (formerly Weeds Across Borders),
NAISMA	North American Invasive Species Management Association (formerly NAWMA)
NAISN	North American Invasive Species Network
NAWMA	North American Weed Management Association (former name, now NAISMA)
NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County, Department of Defense
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization, generally not-for-profit
NIFA	National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture
NISC	National Invasive Species Council
NISMS	National Invasive Species Management System (Bureau of Land Management)
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency, Department of Commerce
NPS	National Park Service, Department of Interior
NW	North West
NY	New York
OESHA	Office of Environment, Safety and Health Assessments, Department of Energy
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PA	Pennsylvania
PM	Post Meridian (afternoon)
PRISM	Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
Q/A	Questions/Answers
RFP	Request For Proposals
RFS	Renewable Fuel Standard program (EPA)
RIN	Regulation Identification Number (EPA)
RRIS	Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition
SAFED	FICMNEW elist for federal employees
SD-DA	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Spp	species
TN	Tennessee
URL	Web address; Uniform Resource Locator
US(A)	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior
WAB	Weeds Across Borders (now North American Invasive Species Forum)
WRA	Weed Risk Assessment
WSSA	Weed Science Society of America